

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
COLORADO STATE OFFICE  
2850 YOUNGFIELD STREET  
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80215-7076

March 28, 1997

In Reply Refer To:  
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EMS Transmission 03/28/97  
Instruction Memorandum No. CO-97-033  
Expires: 09/30/97

To: Area Managers, District Managers, and Deputy State Directors

From: State Director, Colorado

Subject: Implementing Colorado Standards for Public Land Health in FY 97      DD: 4/25/97

On February 3, 1997, Secretary Babbitt and Governor Romer, together, approved Colorado's "Standards for Public Land Health", thus amending 10 Resource Management Plans in Colorado. Congratulations to everyone for getting this phase accomplished, but the job is far from finished. Implementation is now before us and let me emphasize the word "us" because standards for public land health apply to all of us in BLM Colorado and to all uses and management of our public land. Together we must be committed to their effective application.

Our Resource Advisory Councils (RAC) and other members of the public expended an extreme amount of effort to arrive at meaningful standards for public land health and are, understandably, very interested to see how we translate their efforts into actions and results on the ground. Many other affected publics and internal BLM staffs are only now becoming aware that standards apply to all uses and to all programs. They are just now realizing the implications of the standards in how public land will be managed in the future. Given the interest in and the importance of effective implementation, we must recognize the need to be accountable and show steady progress in applying the standards to improve the health of the land.

We know we can't implement standards everywhere overnight; the rulemaking and our environmental analysis recognize this. Implementation must and will be a continuing process. Implementation of the standards must be integrated into our day-to-day operations, rather than onto existing workloads. We must move forward with implementation deliberately while recognizing we will be learning as we go.

So, to move noticeably and effectively, I request that each Area Manager, District Manager, and Deputy State Director respond to the following by April 25, 1997.

1. How do you intend to set priorities for implementation?
2. How do you intend to apply standards to new authorizations? To types of uses and authorizations other than those related to grazing?
3. How do you intend to build the necessary internal and external relationships to assist with effective implementation?
4. How do you intend to account for implementation at the end of FY 97?

Here's what we plan to do statewide to assist you in your efforts. For the upcoming field season, we plan to hold on-the-ground field training in each District. Additionally, a cadre of personnel with experience in the preparation and testing of our standards will be available to you for answering questions and addressing concerns. State Office External Affairs will prepare an outreach plan to assist us in sharing our experiences and in accounting for our efforts and accomplishments to the public and within BLM.

Around the end of the fiscal year, we plan to conduct an assessment of our implementation experiences on what was accomplished/not accomplished, what was successful, what wasn't, and anything else that will improve future efforts. From these test results, we will have a better understanding of how to implement standards and will be able to prepare a more focused approach to implementation in 1998 and beyond. We expect that some RAC members and other members of the public will assist us in reviewing our progress.

For additional information on implementation, there are three documents available upon request. These documents are: the Colorado Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines (S&G) for Livestock Grazing EA, dated June 28, 1996, Information for Implementing Colorado Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing, and Washington Office Instruction Memo 96-172, a document on the subject in a question/answer format.

The cadre of personnel mentioned previously includes the former Statewide S&G team, which will be expanded to include a much broader representation of program specialists from around the state. Until this can be accomplished, feel free to contact any member of the S&G team below for your immediate questions.

Jim Cagney - WRRRA Jim Sazama - URA  
Dennis Murphy - MDO Mark Stiles - MDO  
John Carochi - CCDO Ade Neisius - CCDO  
Jim Dollerschell - GJRA Lee Upham - CSO  
Bill Carey - CSO Dennis Zachman - CSO  
Glenn Wallace - CSO Johnny Riel - CSO

If you have any questions, concerns, or need any of the documents mentioned above, please contact Glenn Wallace at 303/239-3728.

Signed by  
Robert V. Abbey  
Acting State Director

Authenticated by  
Don Snow  
EMS Operator